

Mr. Howard is a star cornerback for the Miramar High School Patriots. Thanks in part to his proficient coverage skills, the Patriots finished runner up in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 8A Football Finals. While the team is full of talented players, college football coaches across the country rate Mr. Howard as one of the best prospects in the country.

As an indication of his talents, Mr. Howard has received numerous honors and awards. He was recently named a first-team Sports Illustrated.com All-American. In addition to playing in the Army All-American game, he was a finalist for both the U.S. Army All-American Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year Awards.

Mr. Speaker, Tracy Howard is an extremely talented athlete. His success is just one example of how talent, hard work, and dedication can help people achieve their dreams. I am honored to commend Mr. Howard on his accomplishments, and wish him the best of luck as he continues his football and academic career at the collegiate level.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE MICHAEL
E. SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the building of the Michael E. Smith Middle School in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The school was built in 1961 and was dedicated on January 14, 1962.

The school is celebrating this milestone with an assembly on the morning of January 18, 2012. The assembly will feature several important faculty members who will be speaking, including Principal Erica Faginski-Stark and Walter Morse, a teacher who has worked at the school for 40 years. In addition, Superintendent Sayer, Former Principal Noel, and State Representative John Scibak will all be speaking at this historic event.

The Michael E. Smith Middle School is a public school in the South Hadley school district of Massachusetts. The school has gone by several names, beginning with the South Hadley Intermediate School upon the building's completion in 1962. In 1978, the school's name was changed to the South Hadley Middle School. With this name change came two new grade levels. The fifth and sixth grades were added to the seventh and eighth grades to double the school's classes. In 2002, the school changed its name for the final time, commemorating the late Michael E. Smith, a past superintendent.

For the last decade, the school has undergone several renovations, including the completion of a new building and an extensive remodeling of the interior. Currently, 700 students in the South Hadley School District are educated at the Michael E. Smith Middle School, with a faculty and staff of 104. Ms. Erica Faginski-Stark is the current Principal of the school, and the Assistant Principals are Mr. Vincent Napoli and Ms. Brett Costello.

I wish to congratulate the Michael E. Smith Middle School on providing 50 years of quality

education. I wish them good luck in educating the children of South Hadley for years to come.

HONORING THE MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF GARY, KAREN FREEMAN-
WILSON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and the deepest respect that I rise today to honor one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, the Mayor of the City of Gary, Indiana, Karen Freeman-Wilson. Born and raised in Gary, Karen is truly one of the most passionate and involved individuals that I have ever known, especially when it comes to serving the people of Gary. Mayor Freeman-Wilson's first term began this year, and in doing so, she took her place in history as the first female mayor of the City.

Karen Freeman was born in Gary, Indiana; her father, a steelworker, and her mother, the coordinator of a local community center. Both took great pride in their city and were heavily involved in their community, and it was through their example that Karen learned the importance of hard work and public service from a young age. Karen credits her parents with teaching her that "to whom much is given, much shall be required," and it is with this ideal in mind that she has accomplished so much throughout her distinguished career.

Following her graduation from Harvard Law School, Karen quickly realized that working in a law firm was not what she was meant to do. Rather, her calling was public service. Throughout her esteemed career, Mayor Freeman-Wilson has held many posts. From 1995 to 2000, she served as a presiding judge for the Gary City Court, during which time she established the first drug treatment court in the State of Indiana. In 2000, Governor Frank O'Bannon appointed Karen to serve as Attorney General for the State of Indiana. After leaving office, Karen continued to work for the public in various capacities. She has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the Executive Director of the National Drug Court Institute, the Director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, and as a member of the board of directors for Hythiam, Inc. Mayor Freeman-Wilson has also been involved with numerous other organizations and charitable groups, including: the American Bar Association, the Indiana State Bar Association, Legal Services of Northwest Indiana, the Gary Chamber of Commerce, and the Second Chance Foundation, an organization aimed at combating substance abuse, for which she is a founding member. She is also very active in her church, Israel C.M.E. Church.

For her many contributions to her community, the State of Indiana, and beyond, the Mayor has received countless accolades. To name a few, she was recognized by Ebony magazine as a Leader of the Future, by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority with the National Award for Achievement in Civil Rights, and is an inductee into the Stanley Goldstein Drug Court Hall of Fame. In addition, she is a recipient of the prestigious Sagamore of the Wa-

bash, awarded by former Indiana Governors Evan Bayh and Frank O'Bannon.

A devoted wife and mother, Karen's passion for serving the people of Gary is matched only by her love for her family. Karen and her husband, Carmen, are the proud parents of a daughter, Jordan. Karen and Carmen have reinforced the same sense of responsibility and civic pride in their daughter that Karen learned from her parents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson as she begins her first term as the Mayor of Gary. She is to be commended for her leadership, dedication, and her love for the people of Gary. Karen serves as a true inspiration to those she serves, and I look forward working with her in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND LARRY
WILLIAMS FOR HIS HONORABLE
SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Reverend Larry Williams. Reverend Williams has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to make a positive difference in doing God's will.

Reverend Williams, a resident of Mayersville, Mississippi, was born May 25, 1953, to Paul and Gracie Williams in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He enlisted in the United States Army December 7, 1972, and served until January 1993.

Reverend Williams completed his graduation through the Army Program while in Germany. Later, he attended the University of Maryland and earned his Associates Degree from Central Texas College.

He is married to Terry Williams. Together, they have one son, Dominique Williams. Reverend Williams was installed as Pastor at Saint Peter Missionary Baptist Church in December 2006. It is his passion to minister to those who are lost.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Larry Williams for his dedication and service to our great country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300-132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,236,323,396,400.44. We've added \$10,434,918,221,106.16 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District were recognized during the 33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 14, 2012, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Service Club paid tribute to several local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. Mayor Rudolph Clay was honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award for 2012. The individuals recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast included: Attorney Arlene D. Colvin, Mr. Richard (Chappy) Woods, Pastor Dwight A. Gardner, Ms. Sandra Jean Irons, Colonel (Retired) Richard D. Ligon, and Bishop E. Bobby Warren. Yolkfellow James Piggee was selected as the 2011 Frontier of the Year. In addition, the club also inducted its first Honorary Member, Reverend Pharis D. Evans, Pastor of Clark Road Baptist Church in Gary, for his many years of service to the Gary Frontiers Service Club. Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Chairman Clorius L. Lay and the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers: President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President Sean Jones, 1st Vice President James Piggee, Recording Secretary Melvin Ward, Financial Secretary Sam Frazier, Corresponding Secretary Ferba Hines and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, as well as the honorees and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

RECOGNIZING MS. KIMBERLY
SMITH FOR HER DESIRE AND
COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a faithful and tenacious young woman, Ms. Kimberly Smith. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a boundless desire to achieve.

Ms. Smith is a lifelong resident of Mayersville, Mississippi, and is the third of seven children born to Melvin and Emma Smith.

Ms. Smith was the salutatorian of her 1999 South Delta High School class. She attended Jackson State University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. Graduating with honors from Jackson State in 2003, she began teaching at South Delta Elementary School. She taught both second and fourth grade during her short tenure.

In 2004, Ms. Smith was in a car accident that would change her life forever. After her accident, she decided the only thing to keep her going was her drive for education; for that reason, she pursued and obtained her Masters of Education degree. In 2008, she received her Masters of Education with "Honors" from Delta State University. Ms. Smith lives by the motto, "Saved by Grace, spared by Mercy."

Ms. Smith is an active member of Rising Star Seven Day Adventist, where she serves as Youth Director.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a humble but dynamic servant, Ms. Kimberly Smith for her unwavering desire to education.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR BOB
WASSERMAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of the Mayor of Fremont, California, Bob Wasserman. The residents of Fremont and communities throughout California and beyond mourn the loss of this dedicated public servant who passed away on December 29, 2011.

Mayor Wasserman was born in Gary, Indiana, and moved to California and attended public schools in the Los Angeles area. He became a Police Officer in the City of Montebello, California, and was appointed to the position of Chief of Police in San Carlos, California in 1969 where he served for three years. He was appointed Chief of Police in Fremont in January 1976 and retired in 1992.

In 1992, Mayor Wasserman was elected to the Fremont City Council and served until 2004. He was elected Mayor in 2004 and currently held that position.

Mayor Wasserman's 40-year career in law enforcement included appointments in Southern California and a term as president of the

California Peace Officers' Association. He has been recognized by the California State Senate for outstanding public service and was the recipient of the Law Enforcement Executive of the Year Award.

His numerous affiliations include Past President of the California Peace Officer's Association, California Police Chief's Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training and Police Executive Research Forum.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Police Science and Administration from California State University, Los Angeles and received his Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

Mayor Wasserman is survived by his wife of 53 years, Linda, and their two children, Dan and Jill. I join the community extending heartfelt sympathy to the family, colleagues and friends of Mayor Wasserman. He served with honor and distinction and his many positive contributions to make a difference in the lives of others have left an indelible mark and will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RUBEN
AYALA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to a devoted public servant, Ruben Ayala. Ruben, a former State Senator from California passed away on January 4, 2012, at the age of eighty-nine.

Ruben was born and raised in segregated Chino, California, to Hispanic parents. During his youth, he attended Chino High School and was widely respected for his strong athletic ability. After high school, Ruben served honorably in the 1st Marine Division in the South Pacific during World War II.

After his service in the Marine Corps, Ruben attended the National Electronic Institute of Los Angeles, where he studied television repair. It was during this time that he met his beloved wife, Irene. Ruben worked in television repair in Chino, and later the insurance industry, until starting his political career in 1955 with his election to the school board.

In 1962, Ruben continued his career as a city councilman in Chino. Two years later, in 1964, Ruben became Chino's first elected mayor, where he began to leave his lasting impression on the community. From 1974 until 1998, Ruben served admirably as a State Senator, becoming the first Mexican-American to serve in the Senate since 1911.

I had the privilege of knowing Ruben and Irene personally. I also had the honor of serving with Ruben in the California State Legislature. During our service together, I quickly discovered that Ruben was widely respected by both Democrats and Republicans, who looked to him for advice and counsel because of his ability to lead and his hard working reputation. Ruben's success as a Senator opened doors for Latinos and Latinas in California. Ruben encouraged and inspired me to run for his Senate seat, when his career ended due to term limits.